

have sought to procure the finest, cutting-edge technologies for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, guardians, and marines, so that our women and men in uniform never enter a fair fight.

Moreover, I have spoken up for our Nation's foster youth, who are too often forgotten and left behind, and I have worked across the aisle to invest in job training, apprenticeships, and career and technical education.

Looking back, I will always be proud of my vote for President Obama's Affordable Care Act, which lowered healthcare costs and secured coverage for millions of uninsured Americans.

I will never forget the moment that I became the first Congressman in a wheelchair to preside over the U.S. House of Representatives as Speaker pro tempore as we marked the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I thank NANCY PELOSI, perhaps the greatest House Speaker of the modern era, for making that day possible.

Likewise, I thank Majority Leader STENY HOYER for his decades of friendship and leadership in passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and for his unrelenting efforts to make sure that the Capitol complex is accessible to Americans of all abilities.

I also express my gratitude to my colleagues in the congressional delegation, Jack, Sheldon, and David, for their friendship and support. I could not have asked for better colleagues to work with on behalf of our great State.

Finally, I thank the dozens of dedicated staff members who have served in my office over the years, as well as my friends and my entire family, especially my mom, my late dad, my brothers, and my sister for standing by my side every step of this journey.

Choosing not to seek reelection to Congress was one of most difficult decisions of my life. But after two decades of living in two places at the same time and weekly air travel, I am ready to chart a new course.

Although I will no longer be in Congress come beginning of next year, I am not going away. I am just coming home.

I love my State, and I love the people who live there. So most of all, I want to say thank you, Rhode Island, for the opportunity to serve the community which has given me so much. I will always cherish the time that I was blessed to represent you.

BEEKEEPING AT UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Georgia for the creative ways it is building a more environmentally sustainable campus. Late last year, UGA golf course superintendent Scott Griffith took an interest in, of all things, bees.

Alongside the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Griffith established a beekeeping program on the golf course, recognizing that it would make for an excellent outlet for educating students about the importance of pollinators.

Bees, as we all know, play a vital role in maintaining our ecosystem. These industrious insects pollinate our flowers and crops, helping to maintain the delicate balance of nature that allows for a bountiful supply of food and a greener world to live in.

Unfortunately, bees have faced numerous, sometimes existential challenges in recent years. Pesticides, habitat loss, and deforestation have all contributed to decline in the population of bees, which has had a serious cascading effect throughout the food chain.

By providing a safe and nurturing environment for bees, the university is not only helping to safeguard these creatures, but they are also educating the next generation of leaders about the importance of conservation and sustainability.

I again congratulate Mr. GRIFFITH and all UGA faculty for their out-of-the-box thinking. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this will have on the ecosystem and community in Athens.

□ 1130

CONGRATULATING TIERRA JACKSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tierra Jackson, a pharmacy student at the University of Georgia, for being named president of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association.

As president, she is responsible for shaping the priorities of the organization. She decided that the organization's theme for this year would be Students Creating, Reimagining, and Innovating Pharmacy Together. She hopes to bring together a broad group of students who are interested about the profession of pharmacy, healthcare issues, and the poor minority representation in these areas.

The Student National Pharmaceutical Association is a leading voice in pharmacy education, has 120 chapters nationwide, and boasts over 5,000 members. This distinction is evidence of the diligence she carries with her every day.

A native of Statesboro, Georgia, she received a bachelor of science in pharmaceutical science degree. While an undergrad, she was the president for the Pre-Pharmacy Society and vice president and service coordinator of the NAACP. She is cofounder and vice president of the Black Student Pharmacist Organization.

Even at such an early stage in her career, she has already displayed leadership beyond her years. I am proud of Tierra Jackson and the impact that she is having on shaping the future of the pharmacy and pharmaceutical industry.

I congratulate her on her appointment, and I wish her a successful ten-

ure as president of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my farewell speech on the floor of the House of Representatives.

It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent Michigan's 14th Congressional District for the past 8 years.

A few months ago, I announced that my family and I made this remarkable, tough decision that this will be my last term serving as a Member of Congress. For 8 years, I have been given an amazing opportunity, an opportunity to serve and walk the Halls of Congress, and I have enjoyed every minute of this journey.

I am deeply grateful to the people of the 14th District in southeast Michigan who gave me their vote and trusted me to represent them in office. I have been representing southeast Michigan for 30 years. I am coming home.

I was trained to be a public servant in local politics, where I was the first woman and the first African American to ever be elected to the position of mayor in the city of Southfield, for which I served for 14 years. I also served as school board president and president of the city council.

In this Chamber where I stand, we debate issues and confront challenges on behalf of the American people. This thing that we call a democracy is defined by the vote of the people and someone stepping up for public service.

I was raised by my grandmother, who migrated from Georgia to Detroit in the height of the American civil rights movement. I remember watching her in tears as America marched, protested, and fought for a nation where we would not be judged by the color of our skin but by the content of our character.

She instilled in me the passion for democracy and the importance of voting. She told me: Brenda, if you work hard and get your education, there is absolutely nothing that you can't do in these great United States of America.

For the past 30 years, I have learned how important it is to be accessible to my constituents, to act as their voices in the rooms that they cannot enter. I went to places of worship, met with union representatives, walked with the people, and made sure that the door was open so that every citizen I represented had an opportunity to have their voices heard.

As a member of Michigan's congressional delegation, I am proud to have legislated on issues that are important to our great State of Michigan—water quality, union rights, justice, transportation and infrastructure, manufacturing and the auto industry, housing, and education. I am most proud of using my voice to fight on behalf of my constituents.